

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS USIA FOR ILA AND IOP

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SUBJECT: IAPA HOLDS COUNTER-UNESCO MEETING

1. INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (IAPA) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ADVISORY COUNCIL BEGAN TWO-DAY EMERGENCY MEETING IN SAN JOSE, JULY 12. AGENDA INCLUDED SPECIAL ANALYSIS OF PRESS FREEDOM IN THE HEMISPHERE; THE SELECTION OF FUTURE MEETING PLACES FOR THE ORGANIZATION; A REPORT ON THE WORLD COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS; THE CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE OCTOBER ELECTION OF ASSOCIATION

DIRECTOR; AND A STUDY OF THE WORKING DOCUMENT OF THE UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

2. MAJORITY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS INCLUDING GEORGE BEEBE (MIAMI HERALD) ARE IN ATTENDANCE. OTHER IAPA MEMBERS INCLUDING FORMER ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS LEE HILLS (KNIGHT NEWSPAPERS) AND GUILLERMO MARTINEZ MAZQUSJ (EX-DIRECTOR, EL MUNDO, HAVANA) ALSO PRESENT.

3. OPPOSITION DAILIES LA NACION AND LA REPUBLICA--
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WHOSE SZITORS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IAPA MEETING--

PGLVIDING SUBSTANTIAL AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE OF
PROCEEDINGS. PRO-GOVERNMENT EXCELSIOR HAS BEEN
CRITICAL; NEVERTHELESS A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF
STRAIGHTFORWARD REPORTING ON SUBSTANCE OF IAPA MEETING

IS CARRIED. IN ITS JULY 13 EDITORIAL, EXCELSIOR
CALLED RECENT OUTBURSTS AGAINST THE CONFERENCE AND
UNESCO THE RESULT OF FEAR CAUSED BY A LACK OF INFORMATION.
IT ACCUSED
IAPA OF IGNORING THE TRUTH BY CONTINUING
TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BOGOTA EXPERTS' DOCUMENT THAT
UNESCO HAD REJECTED PUBLICLY.

4. THEME THAT IAPA'S ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNESCO CONFERENCE
WERE UNJUSTIFIABLE ALSO EXPRESSED BY FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO
IN OPENING REMARKS TO UNESCO CONFERENCE. FACIO
SPECIFICALLY CHIDED IAPA FOR ATTACKING A DOCUMENT (BOGOTA)
THAT IS NEITHER AN OFFICIAL CONFERENCE DOCUMENT NOR
RECOMMENDED BY UNESCO. HE CHALLENGED IAPA
PRESIDENT RAYMOND DIX TO LIVE UP TO HIS WORDS THAT
"FIRST AND FOREMOST ALL PEOPLE MUST BE INFORMED" BY
CLEARLY STATING THE FACTS ABOUT THE UNESCO CONFERENCE
WITHOUT DEVIATION OR FALSE INTERPRETATIONS.

5. UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL M'BOW AND IAPA REPRESENTATIVES
REPORTEDLY MET JULY 13 IN EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE JOINT CONCILIATORY
DECLARATION.
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